

REMARKS

A total of 16 claims remain pending in the present application. The foregoing amendments are presented in response to the Restriction Requirement mailed March 24, 200, wherefore reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim 14 has been amended to depend from claim 12, and claims 12, 14-30 and 33 are withdrawn from examination on the merits in the present application. Applicant reserves the right to file one or more divisional applications directed to the subject matter of withdrawn claims 12, 14-30 and 33 at any time prior to issuance of a patent in the present application.

Referring to the text of the Restriction Requirement, the claims are objected to as being directed to a plurality of claimed inventions as follows :

- Group 1, encompassing claims 1, 3, 6, 7, 9, 10, 34-39 and 43-44; and
- Group 2, encompassing claims 12, 14-30 and 33

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.143, applicant hereby elects claim group 1, encompassing claims 1, 3, 6, 7, 9, 10, 34-39 and 43-44, for further examination in the merits in the present application.

It is further believed that the present application is in condition for allowance, and early action in that respect is courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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